



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

RF

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/848,940	05/04/2001	Todd W. Herrick	C-472/TEC1154	8491
832	7590	11/07/2003	EXAMINER	ABRAMS, NEIL
BAKER & DANIELS 111 E. WAYNE STREET SUITE 800 FORT WAYNE, IN 46802			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2839	

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	09/848940	Applicant(s)	RF
Examiner	Abrams	Group Art Unit	2839

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7-14-03

This action is FINAL.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).

All Some* None of the:

Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received
in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Other _____

Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 2839

Period for response set in last office action is withdrawn.

Title is objected to as unclear and as not properly informative.

Drawings objected to, fig. 5, "92" is not directed to a groove. The fig. 4 groove 92 is not seen in fig. 5. Figs. 4, 8, "60" appears incorrect, should it be --62--?

Applicant is required to submit a proposed drawing correction in reply to this Office action. However, formal correction of the noted defect may be deferred until after the examiner has considered the proposed drawing correction. Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing correction will result in the abandonment of the application.

Abstract, reference to "ports 122' and 126 for injection of dielectric subsequent to mating of the connectors" should be added.

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 18, 19 directed to fig. 8 embodiment, seem inconsistent with claim 16, since method steps are usually set forth in order performed and claims 18, 19 require first joining the connectors and then injecting the gel into the mated connectors (see apertures 122' and 126). Applicant could add to claim 16 --the placing and connecting steps being performed in any order-
- to clarify above matter.

18

Claims 1-~~29~~ and 20-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paterek in view of Mattis, Grovall, Shimirak and Katoh.

Art Unit: 2839

Paterek discloses a system with housing 4 for surrounding a compressor and motor, the housing mounting a terminal assembly having a cup shaped body 3 and a cluster block 8 with a shield 14. A cavity is defined by shield 14 and cup 3. Paterek does not disclose dielectric material filling the cavity. Mattis, fig. 8, Shimirak, fig. 2 at 140 and Katoh, figs. 7, 8 disclose assemblies with dielectric material, such as gel filling connector cavities. Gronvall further discloses use of gel to seal contacts within cavities.

It would have been obvious to use such dielectric fill material in Paterek. This would protect the engaged contacts from environmental effects.

Claim 2 met by such combination. Claim 3, Paterek cavity would be closed after mating. Claims 4, 5, cluster cavity in shield 14 has open end for ingress of dielectric material. Claim 6 met by reference gels. For claim 7, the gel would cure in time as disclosed by Shimirak, col. 5, lines 45-50 and Gronvall col. 2, lines 30-35. For claims 8, 15, also obvious to enclose Paterek jacketed wires in dielectric in view of Katoh, figs. 7, 8 and Gronvall, which disclose such aspect. This would protect the wire to contact attachments from moisture. For claim 16 also obvious to locate the gel in both the terminal assembly and in the cluster assembly in view of Mattis, fig. 8. This would protect the contacts before mating. The gel would become cured as discussed above. For claim 18, open end of Paterek shield 14 defines an aperture for ingress of gel. Claim 11 relates to method step rather than to structural features. For other included claims, above discussions are adequate.

Art Unit: 2839

Claims 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leitmann in view of Paterek and Gronvall.

Leitmann shows a terminal connector T with pin 16b (joined at both ends), connector ~~is~~ 15 read as a cluster assembly with one contact, dielectric material F filling the connectors when mated. Leitmann is not mounted to a compressor housing nor is F disclosed to be gel. It would have been obvious to use the Leitmann connector T on a compressor in view of Paterek and to form F as gel in view of Gronvall. Compressor use is a standard use for terminals and gel is typically used as a dielectric to protect contacts. Also term "pin" with no tie in to other features *construed. The gel would* may be broadly also cure as taught by Gronvall.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to N. Abrams at telephone number 308-1729.

Abrams/ek

11/05/03


NEIL ARRAMS
EXAMINER
ART UNIT 322